

among the Arabs. Around them were generally deep and rugged gorges and ravines or water-courses, whose sides were formed of ledges of granite nearly perpendicular. . . . Whilst crossing over these low hills, my friend pointed out the path between them and Sinai, through which he had passed yesterday on his return from St. Catherine. . . . This ravine around Sinai becomes a deep and impassable gorge, with perpendicular walls, as it enters Wady Leja, passing through the high neck connecting Sinai with the mountain on the south. Descending into el-Leja, under the rocky precipice of Sinai, we found the Wady narrow, and choked up with huge blocks of granite, which had tumbled from the sides of the adjacent mountains. We could now see the olive-grove of the deserted convent el-Arbain."

Had Ritter been acquainted with the nature of the ground and the ravine here described; and especially could he have stood for half an hour on the summit of Jebel Mûsa; I cannot help thinking, that the authority of his great name would hardly have been given to the view in question.

One other point may be noticed. It would appear from the language of Scripture, that Moses ascended the mountain in the presence of the people; and the bounds were set (in part) lest the people should "go up into" the mount (Ex. 19: 12, 20, 24). Now on its southern side the peak of Jebel Mûsa is perfectly inaccessible; and it can be ascended only from near the convents in the vallies on each side, out of sight of any space on the south. But from er-Râhab, a ravine leading up through the steep face of es-Sûfâfeh, affords a way of ascent directly in sight of the whole plain. This is not improbably the *Derb el-Sarîh* of Pococke.¹

ARTICLE IX.

GREEK INSCRIPTIONS.

[Addressed to one of the Editors.]

Yale College, March 26, 1849.

MY DEAR SIR:—I send you copies of inscriptions transcribed by Mr. Thomson during the tour, his account of which is contained in the *Bib. Sac.* for November 1848. The inscriptions are, I regret to say, unimportant in themselves, and in an extremely corrupt state. They ought, however, to be published, as a slight contribution to the epigraphic de-

¹ See Pococke, *Descr. of the East*, I. p. 144. Ritter, *Erdk.* XIV. p. 542.

partment of Greek archaeology. I have added some few corrections or conjectures.

1. Found on the cornice of the sepulchral chamber at Behindelayeh mentioned under date of Aug. 29th, in the Bib. Sac. Vol. 5. p. 669. The inscription which occurs immediately under the wreath, extends in large letters the entire length of the cornice, and is very plain except where it has been purposely defaced.

ΤΙΚΑΦΙΑΟΚΑΗC ΤΙΚΑΕC ΟC ΑΝΔΡΟΝ - ΤΟΝ ΠΑΤΕΡΑ . ΥΤΟΥ ΚΑΙ ΚΑΚΗ ΠΑ-
ΡΟΥ ΙΙ ΤΗΝ ΜΗΤΕ C ΚΜ ΙΙ Κ' . . ΗC ΧΑΡΗ

The fourth letter ought to be *A*; and we have here an abbreviation for *Τιβέριος Κλαύδιος*, which again occurs for the accusatives of the same words. The father's name was perhaps *Σώσανδρος*. With the mother's I can do nothing. The inscription may have run thus: *Τι. Κλ. φιλόηλης Τι. Κλ. Σώσανδρον τὸν πατέρα αὐτοῦ καὶ * * * τὴν μητέρα τιμῆς καὶ μνήμης χάριν.*

2. A few inches beneath this is the following in smaller characters.

ΕΤΟΥC . ΒΓΓΡ . ΜΗΝΟC ΑΤC ΤΟΥ ΡΑC . ΑΝΑΡΕΠΗΥΗΡ . €

I seem here to discern *ἔτους ζ' πρ. μηνὸς Δίστρου δ. Σώσανδρος*. The year 186, if that be the year, belongs to some æra first used in the Roman times. See Ideler's *Handbuch der Chronol.* Vol. I. 457—476.

3. On a piece of broken cornice belonging to a ruined church at the village of Kokantiyeh. See Mr. Thomson's tour, p. 670.

Ι C Θ Ε Ο C Ο Τ Ε Λ Ι Ω C Δ C . .
Ο Α Γ Ν Ο C Α Ν Η Γ Ι Ρ Ε . . . Ρ

4. On a pedestal of one of the columns is this:

Ο Υ C Γ Η Τ
Ν Ο C Α Ο C

i. e. *ἔτους γπτ. Μηνὸς Ἀψίου? or Δίου?*

5. From the face of a tomb on Jebel Arbaytn near Riha. See p. 673.

+ ΕΤΟΥC Ε Τ * ΜΗΝΟΓΑΩΟΥΤ +
ΕΕ Α . ΡΟ . . . Ο Ε Τ Ο Ο Ε Γ Κ Α Ι Κ Α Ν Κ Ο Λ Λ Α Ι Η Ο Τ Ε Ο Α * Ρ Χ Ω Ν Τ Ι Ο Υ Α Ι Α Ε Ι Τ
Π Τ Α Ι Δ Ε Ρ Γ Ι Ο Ν Ι Ε Τ Ρ

All following the second cross seems to be in one line, if I understand Mr. Thomson correctly. The date is legible; and towards the end something occurs which looks like *Ἰουλιὰ . . . Γοργο[α]ρίου.*

6. On another tomb in the same place

▷ Ο Α Ι Τ Ε Ν Τ
Μ Α Χ Ο C Ο Ε Ν Α Ν Δ Ρ Ο

7. From the south cornice of a canopy over the fountain at Kefr Lata, mentioned p. 673. The letters are in one line and some of them nearly illegible.

ΥΤΑΙΜΟΛ ΟΙΔΙΠΠΟΝΗ . . . ΙΟΥΠΗΤΟΥΤΕΝΙΑΙΡΙΝΟΙΕΤΟΥΤΙΖΤΙΝΑΥ

8. Over the door of a large house at Bara. See p. 676.

+ΚΥΡΦΥΑΖΗΤΝΙΕΞΔΘΝΕΩΥΚΑΙΤΗΝΕΞΞΔΘΝΑΠΩΤΕ
ΤΝΥΝΚΑΙΛΙΙΙ . . . ΙΩΑΙΩΝΩΝΑΚΙΗΝ

This is Psalm 121: 8, with τῶν αἰώνων for τοῦ αἰῶνος, and ἀμήν following. The same verse is copied by Mr. Thomson from an inscription over another door partly obliterated.

9. "Above the north window of a palace is the following."

ΔΟΣΑΝΙΥΗΡΟΙΕΗΙΙΙΚΑΙΕΠΙΓΗΩΙΡΗΝΗΝΚΑΙΕΔΙ

This must be Luke 2: 14, as far as ἐν ἀ[νθρώποις εὐδοκίαν], with the nouns put into the accusative. But the first part is not clear. After δόξαν there is not room for ἐν ὑψίστοις Θεῷ.

10. The following is over a doorway at the same place.

ΝΕΓΑΑΗΗΔΥΝΑΝΙΕΘ(ΑΓΙΑΣΤΡΙΑΟΣ+ΟΚΟΝΙΣΠΡΙ
ΚΚΟΕΝΤΟΥΤΩΝΙΚΑ

That is μεγάλη ἡ δύναμις τῆς ἁγίας τριαδός. + ὁ Κομης Πρίσκος. ἐν τούτῳ νῆα. Count Priscus lived after Constantine, perhaps a great while after.

11. Near the modern village at the same place.

ΕΤΟΥ(ΗΚΨΣΑΠΙΚΟΥΣΗΜΧΟΕΥΡΑ

This is probably *ἔτους η, κ, ψ*. *Σαπτικου μηνός* [σφα?] II of the inscription is probably N and T joined together. The Macedonian month Xanthicus is also written not unfrequently with α (see Bergk's Beiträge zur Griech. Monatskunde, p. 54), and also with ι, comp. Boeckh Corp. inser. Vol. 3. No. 4672. The name of the month usually follows μηνός.

12. On two sides of a large cross upon a coffin occurs Psalm 91: 9, second clause, and 10, which it is unnecessary to copy.

13. In the porch within one of the gates of the castle at Salamiyeh, copied by Dr. De Forest. See p. 682.

ΑΙΒΙΤΕΝΚΕΠΡΟ
(Γ?) ΠΙΕΙΜΙΟΘΕΟΕΑ
ΓΑΚΙΑΚΠΙΒΟΘΕ<
(ΠΙ?) > ΙΙΙΤΝΟΥΝΕΚΡΗΙΝΤΟ

This stone must have been broken in two nearly in a direction down-

wards. The first line is unintelligible. The rest is the passage occurring in Matt. 22: 32. Mark 12: 26. Luke 20: 37, 38, somewhat abridged. Its mood thus probably: *ὕψι σὺν ὁ Θεὸς Ἀβραάμ, Ἰσα[α]άκ, Ἰακώβ, ὁ Θεὸς Θεὸς Ἰσραὴλ, οὐ νεκροῖν.* [τὸ ?]

14. The following is on the base of a column outside of the gate of Salamiyeh.

ΤΙΚΑΑΗΕΠ
ΥΑΝΤΟΥΟΙ
ΩΤΑΤΟΤΠΕ
ΠΙΟΝΙΕΠΠΙΟ¹⁴_Υ
ΚΕΚΤΡΟΥΟΙ
ΚΟΝΟΝΟΥΓΕ
ΓΟΝΕΝ

This appears to be a Christian inscription. Although a number of words can be made out, I have nothing satisfactory to offer in explanation of it. I submit the following reading of the inscription in the hope that it may lead some one on a better track.

ἡ καλὴ . . . τοῦ ὀσιωτάτου. τὸ ἔργον Σεργίου καὶ Κύρου οἰκονόμου γέγονεν.

15. An inscription on a block of marble found near the castle of Sheizar (Seidjar, Burckhardt). This block was dug up by Burckhardt, and he has given the inscription in his travels in Syria, p. 146. It has been transferred to Boeckh's Corpus, Vol. 3. p. 224, No. 4477. Mr. Thomson's apograph is almost precisely like Burckhardt's.

16. Found at ed-Deisunlyeh (on a sarcophagus) by Dr. De Forest. Bib. Sac. p. 690.

+ ΕΑΜΒΥΕΑΩΓΓΩΡ(ς)ΑΡΚΕΜΑΝΑΡ

i. e. Σαμου(δ) . . . ὁ Ἀρχιμανθρ[ίτης.]

On the cover under a cross, the lower angles of which contain the letters Α ω, is the following inscription.

ΓΑΙΔΗΠΑ
Ν . . ΓΡ
ΠΡΩΕΚΑΝ

17. Found at Ksair el-Gharb. See Bib. Sac. p. 692.

ΙΩΓΙΓΕ
ΝΓΙΝΔΙΩ
ΙΜΑΧΩΧΑΥ
Ι . ΠΕCΑΙ
ΓΤΒΥΕΖΑ
ΜΗΙ-ΧΙΙΤΙΤ
R.E.I.T. ΕΤ

I seem to read here something like this: *Σωσιγόνην Αουσιμέου ἀπέθανεν ἔτους ΖΧ (?) μὲν Περ(ε)σιίου.* The fact that the first word is tolerably well made out, and in the accusative, throws doubt on the rest. I believe that *ἐτελεύτα* is the usual word on inscriptions and not *ἀπέθανεν*.

18. From the base of a statue at Judeithah, a small village at the foot of Jebel Knisch, copied by Dr. De Forest.

IVNONI . REGINAE
 PROSALVTE . IMP . CAES . T .
 AETI . HADRIANI . ANTONI .
 NIAVG . PII . P . LIBERO
 RVM . QVE . EIVS . BABICA
 IVS . FI . CEMFILVSVFRATES
 EX . ESTAMENTOPETII
 ELVCIAE . MATRIS . EOR .

The necessary corrections are almost too evident to be noticed, viz. AELI in line 3, BALBICANVS in line 5, ET for FI and FRA TRES line 6, supply T line 7, and read PETILIAE line 7.

19. The following was copied at "Kusr Wady, Hummara, Anti-Lebanon," by Dr. De Forest.

ΑΑΘΘΤΗ ΗΔΙΟCΑΧΣΙΤΥΧΗΑΙ
 €ΠΑΒΩΘΕΟΥC ΔΙΝΑΡΙΟΥΑΡΧΙΕΡΕΩΕΕ
 ΑΥΡΗΛΙΟΙΒΑΡΕΑΔΑCΦΙΛΙΗΘΥΚΑΙΟΚΒΕΟCΟΚΒΕΟ
 ΚΑΙΒΗΡΥΔΑΟCΑΒΡΩΕΟΨCΚΑΙΑΕΙΑΝΗCΓΕΡΜΑΝΟ
 ΚΑΙΜΑΚΕΔΟΝΙCΑΒΙΜΜΕΟΥCΚΑΙΒΕΕΔΙΑΚΟCΔ
 €ΠΕΜΕΔΗΤΕΑΠΟΚΩΜΗCΑΙΝΚΑΙΙΗΑ(€ΚΤΙCΑΝΤ

"Two or three letters are wanting at the end of the last line. The *II* over the third line was so in the original." Dr. De Forest expresses doubt respecting letters 5 and 14 of line 1, letter 5 of line 2, letter 21 of line 3, the last letter of line 5, and letters 24 and 25 of line 6.

The latter part of the first line I have not been able to decypher. The rest may have been as follows:

Ἄγαθῆ τύχη

Ἐπ' Ἀβωθέου (1) Δεινάρχου (1) ἀρχιερέως,

Ἀυρήλιος Βαρεάλας Φιλίππου, καὶ Ὀκβεὸς Ὀκβέου,

καὶ Βήρυνλλος Ἀβραμέου, καὶ Ἀείνης Γερμάνου

καὶ Μακεδόνιος Ἀβιμμέου καὶ Βελίακος δ (?)

ἐπιμελήτα ἀπὸ κώμης Αἰν Καπίας (?) ἐκτίσαν τοῦτο, ὃ ἐκτίσαντο.

This inscription adds to the number of names appearing on Syrian inscriptions Abôthes (if that be the reading), Bareaalas, Okbeus, Abrames, Aeianes, Abimmes and Beeliasus. The name of the village is uncertain, as Dr. De Forest is in doubt respecting two of the letters. Can Δ after

Boetiacus denote that he is the fourth in descent bearing the same name? Comp. Γερμανοῦ β, i. e. δις, or in other words son of Germanus in Boeckh, No. 4648. Still more strange Syrian names occur in No. 4612 of Boeckh's collection.

In the *Bibl. Sacr.* for May, 1848, p. 253, the following line occurs in an inscription copied by Mr. Thomson at Ruad.

ΑΙΤΕΟΝΟC ΔΕΚΤΟΙΝΗC

In attempting to restore the inscription of which this is a part I failed of ascertaining the name of the legion here mentioned. A little more experience would have led me to what I now see to be the certain emendation in this case, viz. Δ. Σκυθικῆς, i. e. legionis quartae Scythicae. The traces of the letters, as given by Mr. Thomson, are followed nearly throughout, and the fourth legion with the same title, appears from at least one other Greek inscription, to have been stationed at one time in Syria. Comp. Boeckh. 3. No. 4460.

Most sincerely yours,

T. D. WOOLSEY.

ARTICLE X.

NEW PUBLICATIONS AND MISCELLANIES.

LAYARD'S NINEVEH. We wish to preserve on our pages a brief record of the explorations and discoveries of Mr. Layard which are very interesting in themselves and which seem destined to cast no inconsiderable light on the Old Testament Scriptures, as well as on other ancient histories.

Mr. Layard began his labors in Nov. 1845, and closed them in June, 1847. The results are published (English edition) in the best style of London workmanship, in two volumes, large duodecimo, pp. 390, 492. Besides a detailed and very interesting account of the excavations at Nimroud, there is also a narrative of a visit to some of the native Christians of Kurdistan, to the Yezidees (see *Bib. Sac.* Nov. 1847), and of several excursions among the surrounding tribes of Arabs. The narrative proper closes at the 149th page of Vol. II. The remainder of the second volume, about 330 pages, is devoted to a series of remarks on the Ancient History of Assyria, the Semitic origin of the people, the architecture, and other arts, military system, manners and private life, religion, etc.